necessary assistance for optimum utilisation of capacity of the factory, then it will most likely close down. Therefore, I would like to uerge the Government to make available necessary assistance to the factory at the earliest to save it from imminent closure. With this the Government can savce an important phormaceutical factory engaged in meeting the requirements of medicines and vitamins of the common people in the country.

[*English*]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Sir, the power supply in the Barak Valley of Assam has become totally nil. Against a total requirement of 45 MW, the Valley is getting 6–10 MW. The activities of the Assam State Electricity Board are discriminatory and deliberate. This has caused a sense of resentment and that may take ugly shape if such condition continues.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Power Minister to advise the Assam Government to arrange supply of power from the Eastern Rid as a stop–gap arrangement and work of construction of gas–based power plant in the Valley by utilising the gas available from Adamtilla and Bashkarki of the Valley should be started immediately for removal of power crisis in the Valley.(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, this is a State matter. I allowed you to raise it. I allowed you to speak at length.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: I am thankful to you. there must be some reaction from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force a reaction from the Government.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it is a tribal question. (*Interruptions*) It cannot be left to the State Government alone. Twenty–three people, including five women, have died after this ministry came into power. Every day, they are being killed. We have taken up such instance here in this House. When people were attacked in Andhra Pradesh, delegation was sent. Why can't we send a delegation from here because 23 people have died?

MR. SPEAKER: You decide about delegation. We will send delegation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Something should be there. What else is the remedy?(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): I think, this is a matter about which the Government has to give a statement. In similar situations, invariably the Home Minister has seccured the House that he will ascertain the facts from the State Government and make a statement in this House

This is a serious matter where tribals have been attacked. Cases of gang–rape have been reported. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Government to ascertain the facts and come to the House with a state ment.

The Home Minister, Mr. Jacob, is here He can certainly assure the House.(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M JACOB): I did not hear. In fact, I was coming.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: This does call for

a response from the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have not heard what Mr. Jacob has said.(*Interruptions*) Every day, tribal women are raped. (*Interruptions*) The State Commission's report has also proved that tribals of Ujal Maidan were gang–raped by Assam Rifles. So, we expect the Home Minister to react. He should ascertain the facts from the State Government. But he is keeping silent.

MR. SPEAKER: I am directing the Government to make a statement in this.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: I will certainly come back to the House later – not today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, the people of India and your attention towards a very important issue. General Elections are stated for the 9th in the United Kingdom. Mr. Kamal Nath please listen.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Election are going on.Supposing we discuss something heve, would it be right?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: I am raising an important issue. You will also agree to it that it is very important.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now that election are taking place. Supposing we discuss something here, it would be like influencing the elections there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: You will agree with me that their attempt to interfere in our internal affairs is a matter of concern for all of us and the High Commissioner of India to U.K. has also expressed his discontentment on the issue. I am not raising the issue of elections over there. Whatever may be the opinion of the people of that country can be pondered ones later on. All of us are worried because as per the reports about the Gallap Poll being conducted there to forecast the victory chances of Labour and Conservative the two parties in electoral fray. Mr. Ray Hatserle is going to be the Shadow Home Secretary. Thought in India we do not have the system of Shadow; cabinet but it is there in England. Mr. Ray Hatserle is likely to be the Shadow Home Secretary of the Labour Party and in his speech on Kashmir and Punjab whatever he has said, in my opinion and the House will agree with me that it tantamounts to interfering in the internal affairs of our country. This is a very important issue and his statements have been vehemently criticised and opposed by the Indian High Commissioner to England and the Indian living over there. Contrary to the reference to Kashmir in the election manifesto of his party he goes on to say that.

[*English*]

> "Kashmir problem can only be solved by pressure for an eventual achievement of some form of self-determination by the people there and press for a solution according to the Resolutions. Labour would take a leading role through the UN to seek a solution to the unrest in Kashmir and Punjab. Kashmiris should have a referendum on this issue."